

Waterbury Police Officer Amatruda and Officer Carr  
Testimony in Opposition to:  
SB 50, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFETY AND CAR SEATS  
February 9, 2015

Testimony against Proposed Bill No. 50 LCO No. 00587

First, this Bill can potentially void out the warranty of a car seat itself. Car seat manufacturers don't allow AFTER MARKET products to be installed on their seats due to the fact that these parts have not been crash tested. Therefore, it is unknown if this "mechanism" would compromise the safety of the child due to the fact that the seat may perform differently than expected in a crash of any magnitude.

Secondly, police departments and agencies throughout the State offer education to parents/caregivers how to properly install their car seat, actual installation of their car seat, and then have the parent/caregiver install while present to assure proper installation and education. All certified technicians must abide by State law and car seat manufacturer recommendations. If car seat technicians install an AFTER MARKET product they are opening themselves, municipalities, and State to liability because we are going AGAINST car seat manufacturer recommendations based upon crash testing that they do in accordance with Federal regulation FMVSS 213. This Bill would bypass those recommendations putting numerous children of all ages at risk.

Also, how is this going to affect low income families with children? According to State of CT General Assembly Commission on Children from March of 2008, in the State of CT the percentage of low income families is 10.3% of Connecticut children under the age of 18 (84,000) lived in a household with income below the federal poverty level (\$20,516 for a family of four).

Source: [http://www.cga.ct.gov/coc/PDFs/poverty/2008\\_poverty\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.cga.ct.gov/coc/PDFs/poverty/2008_poverty_factsheet.pdf)

Also, more recently from the State of Connecticut Child Poverty and Prevention Council 2014 Progress Report it was stated that in 2013 Connecticut's child poverty rate for very poor households with income below 100% of the Federal poverty level was 14.5%. Further, poor households with income below 200% of the federal poverty level show Connecticut's rate in 2013 was 29.9%.

Source: [http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/Final\\_2014\\_Draft\\_Child\\_Poverty\\_Report\\_1\\_%282%29.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/Final_2014_Draft_Child_Poverty_Report_1_%282%29.pdf)

CT DOT Highway Safety grants in the amount of \$40,000 was given last year. Approximately, \$30,000 of that was spent to assist low income families with the purchase of car seats. This was for ONE YEAR. This grant has been in effect for 3 years. Please note: Specific data can be obtained through the Highway Safety Office regarding this grant. This Bill needs more time and research to be effective.